

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066582

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 NEA-09 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 SP-02 SS-15 /058 R

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R 242245Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, FR, UK, XO

SUBJECT: FRENCH TV INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA

REF: PARIS 6266 (111844Z MAR 75)

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS PROPITIOUS TIME TO ASSIST
FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE OF DIEGO FACILITY. WHILE WE WISH
TO BE AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE ABOUT DIEGO, FOR WE BASICALLY
HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, WE DO NOT SEE MERIT IN UNDULY
FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON OUR PROPOSED EXPANSION PLANS
OR, MORE GENERALLY, ON OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN. SUFFICIENT PRESS INTEREST WILL BE GENERATED
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PAGE 02 STATE 066582

WHENEVER THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIES TO CONGRESS THAT THE

EXPANSION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND DEBATE
ENSUES.

2. A RELATED FACTOR IS THAT THE ONLY PRACTICABLE WAY TO
GET TO DIEGO IS BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT (SPECIAL MISSION).
DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS HAS HAD A SIZABLE NUMBER OF JOURNALIST
VISIT REQUESTS FILED SINCE EARLY 1974. MOST ARE FROM
AMERICAN AND BRITISH MEDIA, BUT THERE MAY ALSO BE
INTEREST AROUND THE LITTORAL, ESPECIALLY INDIA, IRAN,
AND THAILAND. WHENEVER A SPECIAL VISIT IS ORGANIZED,
THOSE FIRST IN LINE WOULD IN PRINCIPAL HAVE FIRST CALL.

3. FOR LONDON: UK EMBOFF (PIKE) HAS INFORMALLY AGREED
WITH FOREGOING. PLEASE CONFIRM WITH FCO.

4. FOR PARIS: FOLLOWING REPLY TO PARA THREE, YOU SHOULD
(IF YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, WITH YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES)
INFORM AFI OF OUR RELUCTANT NON-CONCURRENCE. DRAW AS
APPROPRIATE FROM FOREGOING. YOU MAY WISH TO OFFER (A)
MATERIALS WE CAN PROVIDE DESCRIBING OUR PLANS AND
RATIONALE, AND (B) A PLACE ON DOD'S LIST OF MEDIA
VISIT APPLICANTS. KISSINGER

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